

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-01
SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00
INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 OES-07 /059 W
-----111418Z 037732 /42

O R 111330Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8589

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC SHUL PFOR SOPN

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF LOS ANGELES TIME CORRESPONDENT TOTH

1. ROBERT TOTH, LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, WAS APPREHENDED BY MILITIA AT 9:15 A.M. JUNE 11 AFTER RECEIVING PAPER ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY FROM SOVIET CITIZEN. TOTH DETAINED ON GROUNDS THAT PAPER CONTAINED STATE SECRETS. VICE CONSUL NAPPER WAS INFORMED OF INCIDENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF MFA PRESS DIVISION SHORTLY BEFORE NOON. NAPPER WAS NOT TOLD OF REASON FOR DETENTION BUT WAS TOLD THAT HE COULD HAVE ACCESS TO TOTH AT MILITIA STATION #17 AT PUSHKINSKAYA STREET #28.

2. WHEN NAPPER ARRIVED AT MILITIA STATION, PROTOCOL ON INCIDENT HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP BASED ON TESTIMONY OF TWO "WITNESSES" AND TOTH'S OWN ORAL STATEMENT. PRESENT AT STATION WERE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS REPRESENTATIVE OF KGB, TWO PLAINCLOTHES MILITIA OFFICERS, AND THE TWO "WITNESSES". IN ADDITION TO PROTOCOL, KGB OFFICER SHOWED TOTH AND CONSOFF STATEMENT REPORTEDLY MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES THAT MATERIAL PASSED TO TOTH
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CONTAINED STATE SECRETS.

3. AFTER HIS RELEASE AT APPROXIMATELY 12:45 P.M., TOTH TOLD CONSOFF THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS INTEREST IN SOVIET PARAPSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH WITH REFUSENIK EDWARD TIKHONOV PRIOR TO TIKHONOV'S EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN FALL 1976. TIKHONOV AGREED TO PUT TOTH IN

CONTACT WITH SOVIETS ENGAGED IN PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH,
BUT TOTH HEARD NOTHING MORE ON SUBJECT UNTIL MEETING
IN FEBRUARY 1977 AT APARTMENT OF DISSIDENT REFUSENIK
ANATOLY SHCHARANSKIY. SHCHARANSKIY INTRODUCED TOTH TO
SOVIET NAMED VALERY PETUKOV WHO LATER TURNED OUT TO BE
CHIEF OF BIO-MEDICAL LABORATORY AT TARASSEVICH INSTITUTE.

4. PETUKOV GAVE TOTH ARTICLE IN ENGLISH ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY
AND REQUESTED THAT TOTH PUBLICIZE HIS WORK AND HELP HIM GET IT
PUBLISHED IN WESTERN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. TOTH LATER SENT ARTICLE
OUT WITH ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT WHO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SUBMITTED
IT FOR PUBLICATION TO A US SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.
ACCORDING TO TOTH, HE AND PETUKOV MET ONCE IN APRIL BUT
NOTHING WAS PASSED AT THAT MEETING. PETUKOV THEN
TELEPHONED TOTH JUNE 11 TO REQUEST MEETING SAME DAY TO
PASS ANOTHER ARTICLE. THE TWO MET,BUT, AS SOON AS THE
MATERIAL WAS PASSED, BOTH TOTH AND PETUKOV WERE APPRE-
HENDED. TOTH ORALLY RELATED SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO
KGB OFFICIAL UBT LEFT OUT SHCHARANSKIY'S ROLE IN
PUTTING HIM IN CONTACT WITH PETUKOV. ON CONSOFF'S ADVICE,
TOTH DECLINED TO SIGN PROTOCOL. WHEN CONSOFF ASKED TO
RECEIVE COPY OF PROTOCOL AND STATEMENT ALLEGING
THAT ARTICLE CONTAINED STATE SECRETS, KGB OFFICIAL STATED
THAT TOTH WOULD RECEIVE COPY SOON, POSSIBLY MONDAY, THROUGH MFA
PRESS DIVISION.

5. TOTH HAS INFORMED US THAT HE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO
PROTEST INCIDENT TO MFA. HE HAS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
ON INCIDENT AT REUTERS' OFFICER HERE, WITH AP, NY TIMES, AND
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OTHER CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT WHO WILL PASS STORY ON TO REST OF
PRESS CORPS.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS
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Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: CASC, SHUM, PFOR, SOPN, UR, US, (TOTH, ROBERT)
To: STATE LENINGRAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/065ee57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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